

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-5

NEW YORK TIMES
11 MAY 1981

Around the World

C.I.A. Reportedly Prompted Soviet Pilot's Defection in '76

TOKYO, May 10 (Reuters) — The Central Intelligence Agency, aided by a British intelligence agent, prompted the defection of a Soviet pilot with his MIG-25 interceptor plane in 1976 so that the West could study the craft, the Kyodo news agency said today.

The news agency, quoting unidentified Japanese security officials, said C.I.A. agents, in a secret mission in Moscow, offered Lieut. Viktor I. Belenko political asylum in the United States in return for a fully equipped MIG-25. Kyodo quoted Japanese officials as saying an agent of the British Foreign Office's intelligence department first approached the pilot at a Moscow bar in October 1974. Lieutenant Belenko fled to the Japanese island of Hokkaido on Sept. 6, 1976 and was granted refuge in the United States.

The C.I.A. refused to comment on the Kyodo report, and no official Japanese comment was immediately available.

STAT